Black Militant Held in Britain

LONDON, Sept. 6 (UPI)—The British Home Office announced tonight that Robert F. Williams, an American black militant wanted in the United States on a kidnaping charge, has been detained in England.

The announcement was made a few hours after Williams failed to show up in Detroit where FBI agents were waiting to arrest him in the belief he was aboard a Trans World Airlines flight from London.

A spokesman for the Home Office said Williams arrived from Tanzania at London's Heathrow Airport Friday and was stopped by immigration officers and taken to Pentonville Prison.

"It was not considered desirable that he be admitted to this country," the spokesman said. "The airline refused to carry him, and he is being detained pending negotiations for his onward journey."

FBI Searches Plane

[A Trans World Airlines spokesman acknowledged the airline had refused to carry Williams "in line with the position of other transatlantic carriers." He declined to amplify the statement, Associated Press reported.]

In Detroit, FBI agents climbed aboard the TWA flight 791 from London and returned shaking their heads. They told newsmen, "He's not here."

ROBERT WILLIAMS
. . . black nationalist held

About 200 members of the black nationalist Republic of New Africa, most of them in gaily colored African robes, and many carrying the green, red and black flag of the RNA, were obviously disappointed that the president of the paper nation did not show up.

Milton Henry, vice president of the RNA, which elected Williams president at its founding convention at the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Detroit in 1968, said Williams had definitely left Tanzania and was in London when he last heard from him Friday night.

Williams, 44, was charged in Charlotte, N.C., with kidnaping Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Stegall of Marshville, N.C., during racial disturbances in Monroe, N.C. The FBI says the kidnaping warrant issued in 1961 is still valid.

Although four other persons were convicted on the same charge in 1964, the North Carolina Supreme Court overturned the verdict, saying blacks had been excluded from the grand jury that indicted the five.

Indictments Renewed

Another grand jury subsequently indicted all five again and the case was fought up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Since 1961, Williams has lived in Cuba, Red China, North Vietnam and most recently in Tanzania.

Among the RNA members who gathered to meet Williams were several who wore black fatigue uniforms with leopard-skin epaulets and caps, wide belts and army boots. They were not armed.

The uniform is that of the Black Legion, the para-military arm of the RNA. The group seeks to establish a separate, independent black nation in five southern states and to get $400 billion from the U.S. government in reparation for the alleged oppression of black people.

Williams' wife, Mabel, wearing a floor-length black-and-white-striped African robe, and his two sons, who flew here from Tanzania Aug. 16, were at the airport.

While in Cuba, Williams founded the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), broadcast messages to blacks in the United States, and wrote the book "Negroes With Guns" that laid the groundwork for the black power movement.